



# Foggy Bottom News

May 2001

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and the West End

Volume 43, No. 7



Mary Healy accepts award from Msgr. Kuhn of Anchor Mental Health Assn.

## “Mayor” Mary Healy Dies at 87

By Ellie Becker

Mary Healy, longtime resident, community activist and volunteer, and an original resident of the Potomac Plaza Cooperative, died March 20 from heart-related problems. She had been hospitalized for some months and died at Northern Virginia Community Hospital.

She has been called, for many valid reasons, the “Mayor” of Foggy Bottom.

Mary Healy moved into Potomac Plaza in 1957 with her mother, Amelia, and soon became indispensable to the neighborhood and many of its institutions. High on her list of volunteer activities were Potomac Plaza’s Board, St. Stephen Martyr Church, Columbia Hospital for Women, St. Mary’s Court, and the Foggy Bottom Association. Other groups, such as the Anchor Mental Health Association, also benefitted from her efforts.

Healy, to page 4

### For FBA Members Only! Guided Backstage Tour Kennedy Center Opera House

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Wednesday, May 2, 5:30 p.m.

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(tour limited to 40 persons)

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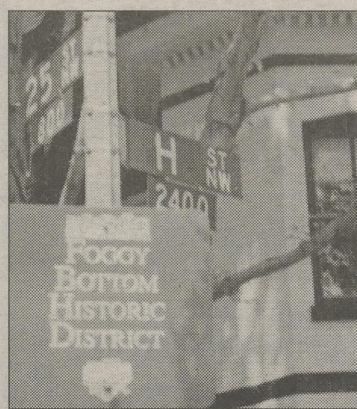
## The Foggy Bottom Historic District: The Neighborhood’s Little Jewel

By Maria Tyler, Commissioner  
ANC-2A03

The Foggy Bottom Historic District (FBHD) is a small jewel in our neighborhood. A century ago it was part of a wide Foggy Bottom area of modest low-rise residential houses. Commercial and institutional high-rise development has taken virtually all of it away. The FBHD is a reminder of what this neighborhood looked like a century ago.

### Some Historical Background

At the turn of the century and roughly until the 1950s,



District, to page 6

## Update

### BZA Campus Plan Order Published

On March 29, the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment issued its formal order on the GWU Campus Plan, following its decision hearing on February 13. The Commission, as expected, approved

## Tom Sherwood To Speak at April 30 FBA Meeting

Tom Sherwood, political reporter for Channel 4 TV, is scheduled to be the main speaker at the April 30 meeting of the Foggy Bottom Association. The meeting is to be held at the newly remodeled Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., at 7:30 p.m.

His appearance at the meeting is a return engagement in what has become an annual event. Sherwood will share with us his “take” on current events and trends in the D.C. government, both in the D.C. Council and in Mayor Williams’ administration. Sure to be included in the discussion are the situation surrounding D.C. General Hospital, personnel changes and other issues facing the Mayor, and insights into other matters political.

Sherwood also writes a column, “Tom Sherwood’s Notebook,” for our area’s weekly newspaper, the *Georgetown Current*, supplementing his briefer but important local political stories on Channel 4. A recent column’s subjects included the fund-raising in the Mayor’s office, the tuition assistance program, and Councilmember Chavous’ future plans.

All residents are welcome—and encouraged—to attend.

### FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome

Guest Speaker:

**Tom Sherwood**  
Channel 4 Reporter

Monday, April 30, 2001

The Melrose Hotel  
2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
7:30 p.m.

(Next meeting: Monday, May 21, 2001)

the plan put forth by the University but subjected it to 20 conditions. As reported earlier, the conditions include some changes in the campus boundaries, called for an enrollment headcount and information on students housed outside the campus but within Foggy Bottom/West End, to

be supplied to the Advisory Committee mandated by the plan. The University reportedly did not file a request for consideration, the first appeal process available, but press reports indicate a court appeal is being considered.

Update, to page 5





## Letters

### "A Neighborhood That Cares"

Now that the 24th Street bridge has reopened and the new tree plantings along K and 26th Streets are showing their spring colors, I want to take this opportunity to thank the many residents who made these projects happen. These improvements are a tremendous asset to our neighborhood, not only because they are attractive, but also because they demonstrate the commitment of Foggy Bottom residents. These improvements tell visitors that this is a neighborhood that cares—a neighborhood that is willing to work hard to pressure the D.C. government to complete projects in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of our community. I view this effort as a model for future projects: excellent and determined planning and effective monitoring during implementation and after completion.

And the work on this project continues. I wonder how many residents know that a few of our neighbors have adopted some of these areas,

regularly watering and weeding them. I hope this will be an inspiration to more people, myself included, to do more for our community.

Robert J. Niemic  
Pennsylvania Avenue

### Arts Club Hosts May Events

On Tuesday, May 1, the Arts Club of Washington will continue its monthly series paying tribute to some of Washington's innovative modern dance companies and their founders. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Dance Place, Carla Perlo, Hermoine Rhones and Reggie Glass will perform Ms. Perlo's choreography for Gershwin's "I Can't Get Started" and "Maura." The performance will be followed by a reception, and the cost is \$10.

Then on Friday, May 4, two exhibitions will open, to run until June 2. Featured artists are Washington painter Mary E. Wagner and mixed-media artist Gail Smuda. Ms. Wagner's "Recent Works" feature large-scale, acrylic-on-canvas paintings, and Ms. Smuda's "Just A Moment" combines implements of "women's work" such as thimbles, house keys, lace, and needles in "part manuscript, part collage." A reception for the artists will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### Chris Reports on Costa Rica

By Chris Labas

Back from Costa Rica and did I have a good time! Surfing, hiked up a volcano, swung through the rainforest canopy harnessed to a cable, was towed about 2 kilometers out to sea by a riptide (to his brother: "don't tell Mom"), saw tortugas (giant sea turtles) laying their eggs on the beach at night, watched a crocodile eat a bird, had 3 parties at our house, met some awesome new friends, including a huge pig named Lola who lives on the beach, and a very cute little one-eyed dog named Mevi who lives in Sunset House, ate nets full of mariscos (seafood), visited a teak plantation, found out the best way to make non-melting Pina Colodas, laughed hard with friends the whole time, and am as tan as a saddle. And there's still more to tell. Two weeks next year!

It is a stunningly beautiful, amazing and wonderful world we live in. I was reduced to tears several times at both the awesome power and beautiful delicate nature of life on this planet. The slogan of this country is "Pura Vida," pure life. Everywhere you go, from tidal pools in lava rock beaches to the trees of the rain forest to the fincas (ranches),

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## FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor and writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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the country is literally teeming with life in all its forms.

What was really beautiful was staring out at the night sky. I really got the sense of how the earth is situated in space. I can't really explain it yet, but it's almost as if you could just follow the orbit of the planet around the sun. It was amazing to look up (or look out!) into a night sky FULL of stars.

There was really nothing

to take back as souvenirs; the bananas you eat here and the coffee you drink here, I'm afraid, are all Costa Rica has to offer. Pretty soon the processors in your computers will come from there too, as Intel is opening a new plant in San Jose. All I can say is you must visit this lovely country for yourself. It is one inexpensive adventure, and the memories will last your whole life.



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## ANC-2A March 21 Actions

By Elizabeth Elliott,  
Chairperson

At the March 21 meeting of ANC-2A, the Commission discussed a variety of important issues that have developed over the course of recent months.

Father Andrew Sloan presented construction plans for additions to St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The finished complex will exceed the lot limit for that site, which will necessitate a zoning special exception/variance. Commissioner Tyler has led negotiations with the church regarding landscaping, parking and construction. She presented a resolution supporting the church's plans which was unanimously approved by the Commission.

ANC-2A also voted unanimously to pass a resolution in support of its own January 19, 2001 appeal to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). The ANC is requesting that the BZA overturn a December 28, 2000 decision by the Zoning Administrator regard-

ing the 1957 E Street property purchased by GWU in 1999 and currently in the beginning stages of construction. The Commission is working to ensure that the University goes through the proper legal process for this particular building project, and voted to have Chairperson Elliott represent the ANC at the April 10 hearing.

JGB Realty requested an additional variance on its 2440 M Street residential construction project. With some input from the Office of Planning to avoid setting precedents in the area of C-2-C zoning variances, the ANC supported JGB's request.

Representatives of the St. Gregory Hotel at 2033 M Street and from the law firm of Holland & Knight also spoke, seeking support for an outdoor cafe enclosure. The ANC approved the request.

The Commission also approved a resolution opposing both the D.C. Council's attempt to end term limits and plans for a large "sculpture" at the American Red Cross site on E Street.

## Foggy Bottom Folks

Don't ever say that romance doesn't thrive in Foggy Bottom! The Reverend **Kirtley Yearwood**, M.D., rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church on 23rd Street, recently announced his engagement. The lady he has in mind and heart is **Jennifer Stockton**, the daughter of a parishioner at St. Mary's. No date for the nuptials has been announced publicly. A sad note in the happy story is that Reverend Yearwood's mother passed away in February at her home in Barbados.

Another engagement just announced should come as no surprise to friends of **Rich Sheehy**, former ANC Commissioner. He and **Kathryn Rooney** made it official one evening recently at the Washington Monument "while looking at the stars." Kathryn, who hails from McLean, is a recent graduate from GWU Law School and works for a health care policy firm. Rich, who works for the Department of the Interior, is also known for his devotion to and knowledge of Foggy Bottom trees.

News has also come of another romance which started in Foggy Bottom. **Matt Hall** and **Polly Berman** were married in February. Matt was FBA Treasurer and Polly was Membership Director. They now live on a horse farm in Long Island, where Matt does consulting work and Polly teaches riding.

Here's a note from the small world department: The Foggy Bottom News is typeset and laid out at General Typography way out New York Avenue. During a visit one of the employees made it known that he is **Joe Keith**, adopted son of the late **Bob Keith**, long-

time resident of 25th Street. Bob Keith was a vice president of the Washington Gas Light Company, as it was known then, and Joe lived with Bob in the 25th Street house for some period of time. If memory serves, that house now belongs to Anne and Bob Charles.

Lots of changes in building management these days. **Angela Luker**, after five years at Watergate South, has moved waaay up north to Potomac Plaza, where she is now Assistant Manager for the co-op inhabited by many fine residents, including the Mayor. Just up the street at Bon Wit Plaza on H Street, **David Kalvan** is now the Site Manager for the condominium. One of the units at Bonwit suffered a serious fire, damaging it and others above it, truly a great challenge to the new manager.

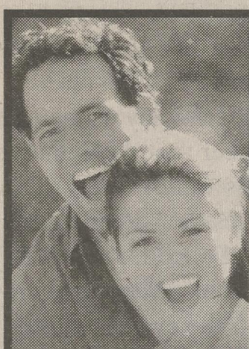
Potomac Hospitality Services, the hotel management company for the River Inn, the St. James, and One Washington Circle, has named **Saleem Malik** as general manager for One Washington Circle. Malik, formerly a diplomat, previously was assigned to the hotel now owned by George Washington University, and also served for some years at the River Inn prior to an assignment to "open" a hotel in Philadelphia. He related recently that he and his family were delighted to return to D.C., and happily the State Department tenants of his house in Arlington were serendipitously assigned to

Russia at the same time.

Coming to the River Inn early this year as general manager was **Barry Gahagan**, formerly with the Phoenix Park Hotel on Capitol Hill. The River Inn's sales manager, **Claudia Hill**, has recently returned from attending to and appreciating a small, new member of her family.

**David and Barbara Ucko**, who hail from Kansas City, are the new owners of a Queen Anne's Lane home. David Ucko earned a Ph.D. from MIT, and will oversee the establishment of a new museum at the National Academy of Sciences. The NAS is just "down the street" on C Street near 21st Street, making it an easy commute. Barbara Ucko is a pianist, and neighbors awaited a chance to watch her grand piano make it up the stairs to the living room. **Mary and Robert Brewster**, former owners of the house, hosted a small reception to introduce them to their neighbors.

Did you hear about the time that the Foggy Bottom News managed to scoop the Washington Post on a big story? You can read all about it in "Follow the Leader, A Dog's-Eye View of Washington, D.C." The "writer" of the book is **Leader Dole**, the "courageous canine" adopted by **Elizabeth and Bob Dole** who reside in Watergate South. The occasion was Leader Dole's birthday party, prominently carried in the FBNews, but only later making the Post.



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## West End Citizens Hosts Dr. Walk

On Saturday, May 12, Dr. Ivan C. A. Walk will address the quarterly meeting of the West End Citizens Association. The meeting will be held in the Diplomat Room of the State Plaza Hotel, 2116 F Street, N.W., at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Walk is the Health Officer for the District of Columbia and Director of the Department of Health. In his health role, he is a major participant in the Mayor's plan to close the inpatient services at D.C. General Hospital and set up "a network of more than 100 primary care locations." The D.C. Council is opposed to the plan.

WECA President Jack Batham invites residents to attend and hear Dr. Walk's discussions of this controversial subject and other topics.

## GW Offers Stroke Risk Evaluations

On Friday, May 18, free stroke risk evaluations will be performed outside the Foggy Bottom Metro Station from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. According to the GWU notice, stroke is the nation's #3 killer and a leading cause of disability for older adults. Participants will learn how to lower the risk of stroke, and receive a free risk evaluation. Sponsors of the event include the hospital, the Medical Faculty Associates, the GW Health Plan, and the American Stroke Association.

## Healy, from page 1

Prior to her retirement, she held a variety of positions at local law firms, the National Archives, Department of Commerce and the Federal Aviation Administration. Reportedly she was deeply involved in helping get the first National Archives Building built at 800 Pennsylvania Avenue, and told the story of being trapped in an elevator in that building for 10 hours over a weekend long ago. Another story has her crawling into the ventilating ducts at the FAA building to rid the Administrator's office of roosting pigeons.

Rick Churchill, in his history of the FBA, wrote that Mary Healy was an early owner of an apartment at Potomac Plaza, and its construction prompted "large-scale restoration and improvements of Foggy Bottom." In the article Mary is quoted: "Who in their right mind would want to buy an apartment down there? . . . I saw the ugliness of decay and desertion but fortunately I knew what could be done with old things to make them beautiful and interesting once again." A true pioneer and prophet was Mary Healy.

Famous for her persuasive capabilities, things happened when she went to work. The New Hampshire Avenue Guest Quarters (now Doubletree) was about to hang a very large name sign (not sure if it was neon), on the New Hampshire and H corner of its building. By the grace of Mary's charm and determination, the sign never went up on what is still a predominantly residential corner.



"Mayor" Healy speaks at a favorite location, St. Mary's Court.

She was a driving force for good at St. Mary's Court. St. Mary's Administrator Bea Watson wrote the News: "Only a few could know how much effort Mary put forth in making sure that St. Mary's Court was built in the first place. . . . And once the Court was built, she didn't walk away. Mary stood with us in making sure that our residents were treated with dignity." And, according to Hal Davitt, the then ANC Commissioner who worked on the project, Mary did not like the vanilla-hued brick



At the 40th FBA Anniversary Board luncheon, Ellie Becker and Mary Healy pose.

originally planned for the building. Somehow it got changed to old-fashioned red brick.

Hal also recalled that Mary was instrumental in upgrading the look of Virginia Avenue and the erection of the safety fence in the median. He said, "It isn't that she did any one thing. But over the years, after scores of phone calls and speeches at meetings, things happened."

Mary is also well-remembered for her performance each year as Mrs. Claus to Councilmember John Wilson's Mr. Claus at the St. Mary's Christmas parties. She and John Wilson were fast friends until his death. She was a strong advocate and participant in local political matters, working for candidates and for this neighborhood. Many will recall the photo of Steve Levy and Mary protesting Mayor Barry's proposed closing of Fire Station 23 on G Street. Mary could be counted on to step up to the plate for Foggy Bottom.

For this writer, a major event and wonderful day of memories produced by Mary Healy was a volunteer award ceremony in May 1987. Six Foggy Bottom volunteers were treated to an incredible array of presentations, from President Reagan, the Mayor, the City Council, the Metropolitan Police Department, the ANC and the Foggy Bottom Association. Mary had involved over 70 people and organizations in the event, and said at the time that she hoped someone would do a second volunteer award event. Sadly, no one has, but it's not certain anyone could do it as well.

Her funeral at St. Stephen's was attended by almost 200

Healy, to page 5

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## Update, from page 1 Housing Is Most "Contentious"

The most "contentious" condition is a "freeze" on the number of full-time students as of February 13, until such

time as GWU houses 70% of its undergraduates within campus boundaries. The BZA stated it will approve only building projects which are at least 50% residential until the 70% figure is reached. Then the university may increase en-

rollment only in proportion to increased on-campus housing.

Among the "Findings of Facts and Conclusions" portion of the order, the BZA stated:

"According to OP (D.C. Office of Planning), the Applicant's (GWU) commitment to house 70 percent of its undergraduate students on campus by 2005 was 'no real solution to the dangers posed to the further viability of the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods.' OP testified instead that any means used to protect the surrounding neighborhoods 'must be based on the actual source of threat to those neighborhoods: continuing University expansion without any concomitant increase in on-campus student housing.'"

The 20th and final condition mandated that no project approvals would "be granted unless the University proves that it has consistently remained in substantial compliance" with the 19 conditions in the Order, stating the violations "shall be grounds for the denial or revocation of any building permit or certificate of occupancy applied for, or issued to, the University . . ." and may result in fines and penalties.

applied for campus housing in the year to come. According to the GW Hatchet, "40% of sophomores who wanted on-campus housing left the lottery without a room." One student quoted stated he held number 1881, but only 10 numbers were called. Rooms reportedly were available at the Mount Vernon campus and in a female-only dorm, as well as spaces in Columbia Plaza, which "come unfurnished and do not offer internet connections," definite disadvantages for most students. One student, in a letter to the editor, suggested that, because there was no room on campus for them, "the University pay for our junior housing wherever we find it. That is the least GW should do."

## Norton Bill: "No Taxation Until..."

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton's first bill in the 107th Congress is titled the "No Taxation Without Representation Act." Senator Joe Lieberman has agreed to sponsor the bill in the Senate.

Aimed at achieving voting rights for D.C. citizens, it calls

for relief from the obligation to pay income taxes until Congressional representation is granted. In announcing the proposed bill, Norton decried the fact that D.C. residents, unlike other citizens, pay income taxes without representation, and unlike residents of U.S. territories who pay no income taxes but do have representation in Congress. The Congresswoman and many others find it difficult to understand why more people can't see how unfair it is.

Automobile owners are encouraged to order the new "Taxation Without Representation" license tags. The charge for the new tags is only \$10.00. There is a movement to license all Metro buses, which currently carry D.C. tags, with the new tags. A local organization, DCVote, is distributing bumper stickers and working in other ways to promote voting rights for D.C. residents. DCVote is located at 1500 U Street, N.W., 20009; phone is 462-6000; fax is 462-7001, and e-mail is [dcvote@dcvote.org](mailto:dcvote@dcvote.org); web page is <http://www/DCVote.org>. Information on the issue and how you can help is yours for the asking.

## Healy, from page 4

persons, including Councilmember Jack Evans, West End Citizens Association President Jack Batham, and FBA Vice President Ellie Becker. Former colleagues at St. Mary's were there: Barbara Brunton and Bill Matthews (who brought his son); and fellow FB activists from years past, Hal Davitt, Marthlu Bledsoe, and Steve Levy.

The Mass was celebrated by Pastor Emeritus Thomas J. Sheehan, and concelebrated by current Pastor Msgr. Roeltgen, Msgr. John G. Kuhn of Anchor Mental Health Association, and Father Francis Bober. Father Sheehan described her as a good person, who "befriended many, helped many (how many we'll never know)," and he also mourned the loss of a friend and an extraordinary public servant. He added that you "cannot bury a good person, cannot bury Mary Healy, no more than you can bury the music of the wind through the trees, or the song of the larks in the spring."

Some comments from those who knew her and benefitted from her vitality and friendship:

"Mary Healy believed in and practiced daily and perfectly the precept 'Love your God, and your neighbor, as yourself.' Mary loved people so much that almost any person was a tonic to her being well and happy. If Mary were here today [at her funeral] she would say 'Thank you for being here. I love you, and I hope that we each love one another.' It is the total story of her life." John Bobbitt, close friend and Deacon at St. Stephen's.

"Rarely does one meet and get to know someone who was born with 'grace.' She was the teacher, and I was the student. I will miss her unrelenting optimism, her insight, her good will, her advice and her company. She was extraordinarily special!" Bob Charles

"Mary Healy's death leaves us here at St. Stephen's saddened for the loss of a dear friend and of a woman who loved and served our parish and our community for many, many years. With a mind full of creative ideas and firmly convinced that 'it can be done,' Mary could see possibilities where others saw only obstacles. Then she would present her ideas and, with her magical mixture of logic, humor, charm, enthusiasm and dogged determination, others were soon aboard." Msgr. Kenneth Roeltgen, Pastor of St. Stephen Martyr Church

"We know you are already busy up there—organizing those angels [Mary collected angels] to do community projects, fundraisers, and appreciation parties. We just want to thank you, for being a mentor, mediator, and moderator. While you were with us, you provided the glue that held our city and Foggy Bottom together for ever so many years. We also want to thank you for "standing up" at our wedding, and on that occasion you indeed did dance an Irish jig as promised.

"And, one more thing, give John Wilson a great big hug." Anne Charles

**WE WILL MISS YOU, MAYOR HEALY!**

## Students Find Not Enough Rooms

In the meantime, the university's assignment of dormitory rooms for next year was reported to leave unhoused many current students who had

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### FBA Member Discounts

<b>Donatello Ristorante*</b> 2514 L Street, N.W. 10% for cardholder and one guest	333-1485 Fax: 625-2306
<b>ProEuro Hair Design*</b> 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 20% off haircut and style 30% off color highlights or perm	887-9191
<b>Expressions (Fine Clothing)*</b> 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 15% off on regular prices	775-9299
<b>Foggy Bottom Cafe*</b> 924 25th Street, N.W. 10% discount after 8:00 p.m.	338-8707 Fax: 337-0570
<b>Grillfish Restaurant*</b> 1200 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. 15% off food purchases (not alcohol)	331-7310 Fax: 331-3751
<b>Kaffe de Cafe</b> 2175 K Street, N.W. 10% off everything we sell (food, gift, drinks, books, etc.)	331-1223 Fax: 331-8776
<b>Marshall's Bar &amp; Grille</b> 2524 L Street, N.W. 10% off; does not apply to any other discount	333-1155 Fax: 333-4664
<b>Primi Piatti*</b> 2013 I Street, N.W. 10% off the check	223-3600 Fax: 296-3725
<b>The River Inn*</b> 924 25th Street, N.W. 10% discount off seasonal rates; guest/members must identify themselves when making reservations.	337-7600 Fax: 337-6520
<b>Treviso Ristorante</b> 2138 1/2 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 10% off all items except lunch specials and drinks	994-9887
<b>Watergate Gallery &amp; Frame Design</b> 2552 Virginia Avenue, N.W. (Watergate Mall) 10% on custom framing	338-4488 Fax: 338-4451
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<b>Watergate Wine and Beverage</b> 2544 Virginia Avenue, N.W. (Watergate Mall) Wine: 10% discount every case Liquor: 5% discount per case Water: 5% discount every case	333-0636 Fax: 965-2416

\*These are new to the list, added in the April or May issues.

### District, from page 1

much of current Foggy Bottom consisted of low-rise residential construction, dating from the second half of the 19th and the early 20th centuries. By mid-century, much of it was no longer in the best condition. At this time the authorities were examining various redevelopment possibilities in the city. One such area was in Southwest D.C., where a whole neighborhood was razed and rebuilt. Foggy Bottom was under consideration for such destruction and rebuilding. However, the area and its townhouses were so attractive for residential living that people bought properties and renovated them. By the late 1950s, urban renewal by government was going out of fashion and parts of historic Foggy Bottom were kept intact by the investment and hard work of residents, who received no federal or city subsidies, and without the need for destruction of existing housing. Gradually, what is now the Foggy Bottom Historic District took shape because of the efforts of these residents.

However, during this period pressure from developers was great. A very large number of historic townhouses in the entire large Foggy Bottom neighborhood were purchased cheaply, razed and replaced by high-rises, or, as in the case of the famous Peter Houses in the 2600 block of K Street, they fell

victim to the highway craze of the late 1950s and early 1960s.

### Residents' Pro-Active Work Brings Positive Results

#### Designation of Foggy Bottom Historic District

By 1980, there was a clear possibility that the days of what remained of historic Foggy Bottom were numbered. However, dedicated residents, ANC-2A, and the Foggy Bottom Association, acted to halt the trend. A well-known architectural historian was hired to prepare an inventory and description of the historic buildings in the area and their history. An application was made to the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) to have selected squares of Foggy Bottom designated as a historic district. The process was slow and expensive. The then D.C. authorities dragged their feet, perhaps deliberately under pressure from developers. During this waiting period more historic properties became their victims. Thus, a beautiful historic townhouse was replaced by the medical clinic condo at 908 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., and the historic buildings housing St. Stephen's Parochial School and convent on the southwest corner of 24th and K Streets was lost when it was demol-

ished virtually overnight to make room for the massive St. James Residence. ANC-2A was forced to intervene with the federal authorities to prevent further delays, and the Foggy Bottom Historic District was finally designated in June 1987 and included in the National Register of Historic Places. The official designation provided an important measure of protection, as structural changes to existing buildings became subject to prior approval of the D.C. HPRB to ensure that any alterations meet the historic character of the district.

### Creation of the FBHD Conservancy

To strengthen the FBHD, and following the examples of such historic neighborhoods as Cleveland Park and Dupont Circle, a number of residents formed the Historic District Conservancy in May 1989. The Conservancy adopted its Bylaws, and, pursuant to the D.C. Non-profit Corporation Act, was incorporated on August 9, 1989. The Conservancy has played an important role in protecting the area from inappropriate development. A description of its work will appear in a later edition of the News.

### Rezoning of the FBHD

Despite the protection afforded by the HPRB, the threat of over-development remained. Although an important underlying element of designation was "the low scale harmony of rhythmic row-houses," consisting mainly of two to three stories, the zon-

District, to page 7

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**District, from page 7**

ing of the historic district was a mixture of R-5-D and R-5-B. Both of these categories permit, as a matter of right, buildings up to 90 feet high. They also permit many uses foreign to the historic district, such as embassy chanceries, dormitories, medical clinics, fraternity houses, and the like. There was, therefore, a direct conflict between the character of the low scale, purely residential historic district and its underlying zoning.

The only way to prevent inappropriate developments which could severely damage the FBHD was rezoning. Led by ANC-2A, the community petitioned the Zoning Commission to change the zoning from the R-5 categories to R-3 and create a "Foggy Bottom Overlay District" to be incorporated in the D.C. Zoning Regulations. R-3 zoning allows, as a matter of right, buildings to be no more than 40 feet high with no more than 3 stories. It basically allows only single family residential uses and is thus consistent with the size and uses of the buildings which formed the basis of the historic designation. With the assistance of the FBA, the FBHD Conservancy, a large number of individual residents, a zoning and preservation attorney and an urban planner, ANC-2A presented its case to the Zoning Commission. Those involved worked closely with the Office of Planning and the D.C. Council, who supported the petition, including Councilmember Jack Evans. With the exception of the Jefferson House condo, which participated in the rezoning petition, the effort was opposed by the owners of high-rise buildings in the Historic District. After two lengthy hearings, the Zoning Commission voted unanimously in favor of our application for the R-3 zon-

ing, and the Foggy Bottom Overlay District was included in the D.C. Zoning Regulations in 1992. Where existing buildings and uses became non-conforming because of the change in zoning, grandfathering provisions were applied. The community's successful effort to rezone has created an important safety net for the integrity of the FBHD.

**Continue To Be Vigilant**

Andrew Altman, the Director of the D.C. Office of Planning, has stated that the city is fortunate to have some 40 historic districts, as they are very important contributions to its vitality and well-being. Our FBHD is one of these important neighborhoods. It is unique in so many ways. It is located in the heart of our city. Its historic, human-scale, pedestrian-oriented neighborhood, with its narrow streets and historic alley dwellings, gives residents a deep sense of intimacy, cohesiveness and commitment. It is now protected by the HPRB and restrictive zoning. However, we must remember that this protection exists because the community has worked hard to obtain it. We must continue to be vigilant to ensure that our protection remains effective. To preserve our jewel is worth the effort, both for residents and the city.

**Heritage Coalition Plans FB Event**

On Saturday, June 2, Foggy Bottom will be the site of a "Beyond the Monuments Neighborhood Day," sponsored by the D.C. Heritage Tourism Coalition. The project will highlight 14 areas this year, with the aim of introducing both visitors and residents "to the treasures hidden in the off-the-Mall city." Kathryn Smith, who spoke at the January FBA meeting, is the Coalition's Executive Director.

Each of the 14 neighborhood events will feature its own special activities. Tentative plans call for a walking tour of our area, highlighting the Foggy Bottom Historic District and the Kennedy Center. Olga Corey, FBA Board Member, has been working with the Coalition and invites anyone wishing to contribute ideas or other assistance to call her at 337-3196.

Another effort to show off our city is "Washington Walks," which are held weekly and begin at various Metro stations. A tour of the White House area is given each Friday at 7:30 p.m.; of Embassy Row on Thursday at 5:00 p.m., one near the Smithsonian on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m., and the Washington waterfront on Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$10; for information contact 484-1565 or washingtonwalks.com.

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**Crime Report—Patrol Beat Areas #207 and #208 (8 March–9 April 2001)**

Date	Offense	Location	Time	Premises
8-Mar	Theft	900 23rd St.	1:55 PM	Metro
9-Mar	Theft	1800 C St.	8:30 AM	Automobile
9-Mar	Assault	1100 N.H. Ave.	11:54 AM	Street
9-Mar	Theft	2001 M St.	6:15 PM	Office
10-Mar	Theft	1919 M St.	8:45 PM	Restaurant
11-Mar	Theft from Auto	2200 M St.	5:00 PM	Street
12-Mar	Theft	1901 Penn. Ave.	7:40 AM	Drug Store
12-Mar	Theft	1900 M St.	12:30 PM	Restaurant
12-Mar	Theft	2021 K St.	2:30 PM	Office
12-Mar	Prop. Destruction	2500 L St.	9:38 PM	Alley
13-Mar	Theft	2430 Penn. Ave.	6:00 AM	Construct. Site
13-Mar	Theft	2650 Va. Ave.	1:00 PM	Sidewalk
14-Mar	Theft	2000 L St.	9:00 AM	Office
14-Mar	Theft	801 22nd St.	8:00 PM	School
14-Mar	Theft from Auto	Snow's Ct.	10:30 PM	Carport
16-Mar	Theft	2030 M St.	1:30 PM	Restaurant
16-Mar	Theft	901 23rd St.	1:30 PM	Hospital
16-Mar	Prop. Destruction	2517 Penn. Ave.	7:29 PM	Bar/Nightclub
17-Mar	Theft from Auto	700 21st St.	12:20 PM	Street
17-Mar	Theft	2000 L St.	3:45 PM	Sidewalk
17-Mar	Burglary	2350 H St.	9:00 PM	Apartment
18-Mar	Theft	1217 22nd St.	12:01 AM	Bar/Nightclub
18-Mar	Theft	1901 Penn. Ave.	12:50 PM	Drug Store
18-Mar	Theft from Auto	2100 K St.	3:00 PM	Street
18-Mar	Robbery	2100 N St.	6:00 PM	Sidewalk
18-Mar	Theft	2000 Penn. Ave.	7:15 PM	Sidewalk
18-Mar	Robbery	1000 22nd St.	10:23 PM	Sidewalk
19-Mar	Theft	1133 21st St.	11:00 AM	Gov't Building
20-Mar	Theft from Auto	1000 N.H. Ave.	8:00 AM	Street
20-Mar	Theft	2311 M St.	9:00 AM	Office
20-Mar	Assault	1015 15th St.	10:30 AM	Sidewalk
20-Mar	Theft	1900 M St.	4:45 PM	Office
20-Mar	Assault	2700 Va. Ave.	9:15 PM	Apartment
21-Mar	Theft from Auto	1900 N St.	11:00 AM	Street
21-Mar	Theft	2099 Penn. Ave.	12:00 PM	Office
21-Mar	Theft	1900 M St.	1:45 PM	Office
22-Mar	Theft	2101 E St.	7:30 AM	Restaurant
22-Mar	Theft	1200 19th St.	7:00 PM	Restaurant
23-Mar	Theft	2150 Penn. Ave.	5:00 PM	Office
23-Mar	Theft	2001 K St.	6:00 PM	Office
23-Mar	Theft	1120 20th St.	7:30 PM	Office
23-Mar	Theft	2200 M St.	11:00 PM	Bar/Nightclub
24-Mar	Theft from Auto	1000 20th St.	9:30 PM	Street
25-Mar	Theft	2000 M St.	10:00 AM	Carryout
25-Mar	Theft	1121 N.H. Ave.	1:00 PM	Hotel
25-Mar	Prop. Destruction	900 23rd St.	3:30 PM	Metro
26-Mar	Assault	900 23rd St.	7:30 AM	Construct. Site
27-Mar	Theft	2000 C St.	7:00 AM	Gov't Building
27-Mar	Theft	2000 Penn. Ave.	11:30 AM	Retail Store
28-Mar	Theft	1129 20th St.	11:58 AM	Office
28-Mar	Theft	2000 M St.	5:40 PM	Office
28-Mar	Robbery	1200 N.H. Ave.	8:00 PM	Street
28-Mar	Theft from Auto	2400 C St.	10:00 PM	Street
30-Mar	Theft	1234 19th St.	3:00 PM	Hotel
31-Mar	Assault	900 23rd St.	10:25 AM	Sidewalk
31-Mar	Theft	1150 22nd St.	10:45 PM	Hotel
1-Apr	Theft	825 N.H. Ave.	9:00 AM	Apartment
2-Apr	Theft	1133 21st St.	10:00 AM	Office
2-Apr	Theft	600 19th St.	1:00 PM	Other/Unknown
2-Apr	Theft	2000 Penn. Ave.	2:00 PM	Restaurant
2-Apr	Theft	2000 N St.	11:00 PM	Hotel
3-Apr	Theft	600 19th St.	9:00 AM	Sidewalk
4-Apr	Robbery	1900 M St.	2:50 PM	Sidewalk
6-Apr	Burglary	1133 20th St.	6:25 PM	Retail Store
6-Apr	Theft from Auto	2000 L St.	10:00 PM	Street
7-Apr	Assault	2142 Penn. Ave.	12:10 AM	Restaurant
7-Apr	Burglary	1926 I St.	12:55 AM	Liquor Store
9-Apr	Theft	2440 M St.	10:00 AM	Office
9-Apr	Theft	2550 Va. Ave.	6:00 PM	Grocery/Market

Source: MPD, Regional Operations Command.

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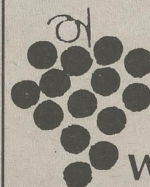
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## Father & Son Artists at Watergate Gallery

The work of father and son artists George and Mark Palmer will be on display at the Watergate Gallery from May 11 to June 23. The senior Palmer is from western New York, and his commissions include portraits of Lucille Ball, Mark Russell, James Whitmore and Nancy Marchand. He is noted for his sensitive interpretation in his family and corporate portraits. Washington's Mark Palmer is best known for his smaller watercolor paintings which have been displayed on both coasts.

A reception to meet the artists will be held on Friday, May 11, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. The gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Ushers Wanted at Lisner

Lisner Auditorium, located on the GW campus, is looking for ushers for its varied program of performing arts. The positions, with payment on an hourly basis during the performances, are for people interested in the performing arts, and who are prompt and reliable. Interested persons should call Lisner at 994-6800.

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## Neighborhood Datebook

**Monday, April 30:** Foggy Bottom Association meeting, featuring Channel 4 TV political reporter Tom Sherwood. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.\*

**Tuesday, May 1:** Performance by Foggy Bottom Morris Dancers, so-named because they practiced in Foggy Bottom for many years. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center, 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 1:** Modern Dance performance, featuring Carla Perio and Carla & Company's choreography for Gershwin's "I Can't Get Started" and "Maura." Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I Street, N.W. \$10, including reception. 7:30 p.m.\*

**Wednesday, May 2:** Backstage Tour of Kennedy Center Opera House, for FBA members. Tickets, one per member, available at the April 30 Foggy Bottom meeting. \$5.00. Refreshments to follow tour. 5:30 p.m.

**Friday, May 4:** Opening of exhibition of works by Washington painter Mary E. Wagner and mixed-media artist Gail Smuda, selected by Phillips Collection Chief Curator Eliza Rathbone. Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I Street, N.W. Hours: Tues.-Fri., 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Opening reception: 6:30-8:30 p.m.\*

**Wednesday, May 9:** "New Advances in Cardiac Care," presented by Jonathan Reiner, M.D., and Joel Rosenberg, M.D., Director and Co-Director of the GW Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory. 7:00 p.m.\*\*

**Thursday, May 10:** "Your Aching Feet," presented by Michael S. Stemple, D.P.M., GW Department of Endocrinology. Sponsored by Senior Advantage. 2:00-4:00 p.m.\*\*

**Friday, May 11:** Exhibition opening, featuring works by father and son George and Mark Palmer. George Palmer is a portrait artist from western New York, while his son, a Washington-based artist, is known for watercolors. Watergate Gallery, 2552 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Opening reception, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, May 12:** West End Citizens Association quarterly meeting, with Dr. Ivan C. A. Walk, D.C.'s Health Officer and Director of the Department of Health as featured speaker. Diplomat Room, State Plaza Hotel, 2116 F Street, N.W. 1:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 13:** Organ recital and "Liebeslieder Walzer" by Brahms, performed by the choirs of The United Church and the World Bank/IMF. United Church, 20th & G Streets, N.W. 3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 15:** "Stroke Prevention and Treatment," presented by Perry Richardson, M.D., Director of the GW Stroke Center. 6:30-8:30 p.m.\*\*

**Wednesday, May 16:** Foggy Bottom/West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission meeting. For info and location, call 736-1775.

**Wednesday, May 16:** "GERD: Fix It!," presented by Stephen Evans, M.D., discussing a new treatment for chronic heartburn. 7:00 p.m. \*\*

**Friday, May 18:** Stroke Screening Day, presented by GW Hospital, Medical Center and Medical Faculty Associates, and the American Stroke Association, who will perform free risk

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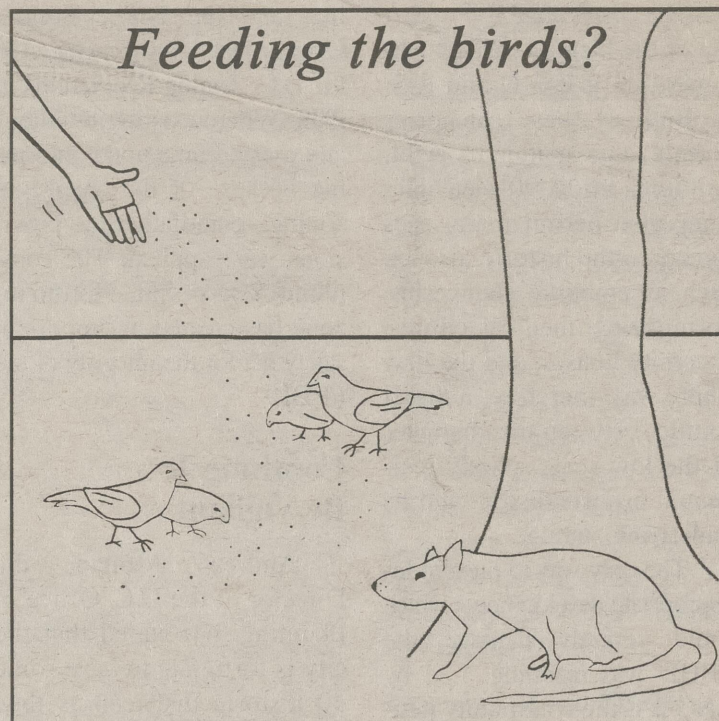
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## Feeding the birds?



evaluations. Foggy Bottom Metro Station, 23rd & I Streets, N.W. 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.\*

**Monday, May 21:** Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with Mayor Anthony Williams tentatively scheduled to speak. (The meeting is scheduled earlier in the month than usual to avoid the Memorial Day holiday.) Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 22:** "Gastric Bypass: Long-Term Weight Loss," presented by surgeon Paul Lin, M.D., and endocrinologist Joseph J. Pinzone, M.D. Park Hyatt Hotel, 1201 24th Street, N.W. To register call 1-888-4GW-DOCS. 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 23:** "Joint Surgery: Replacing Worn Out Hips and Knees," presented by James Graeter, M.D., orthopedic surgeon and Director, GW Total Joint Replacement Center. 7:00 p.m.\*\*

\*See article on this listing elsewhere in this issue.

\*\*Location: Auditorium, GWU Hospital, 901 23rd Street, N.W. For info and to register, call 1-888-4GW-DOCS.

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